(b) The ammunition referred to in the CAG report is called Fin Stabilized Armour Penetratin, Discarding Sabot. For manufacturing certain lots of this ammunition, a modified hybrid design was employed due to shortage of the Combustible Cartridge Case. Ordnance Factory, Khamaria undertook the manufacture of this hybrid design, based on the approval of the Competent Authority, to meet the emergent needs of the Army. The segregated ammunition will be repaired/rectified as required, in consultation with the army.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Delay in Defence procurement

1060. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence acquisition contracts are suffering inordinate delays due to prevalence of "atmosphere of fear" and thus adversely affecting the Defence preparedness of the country especially due to belligerent environment existing in our borders;

(b) if so, whether this delay is attributable to some 'built-in' clause in acquisition procedure or it has assumed this proportion especially after the Tehelka scam when a proactive role of Chief Vigilance Commission was sought; and

(c) whether the in-house vigilance is ineffective especially in sensitive deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) It is incorrect to say that there is an atmosphere of fear in the Ministry of Defence which is adversely affecting the Defence Prepareness of the country. Due to some developments that took place in the last 2 years or so, some officers may be a little hesitant in taking decisions. Efforts are being made to see that any hesitation on their part is removed and the work of defence acquisition is speeded up.

(c) No, Sir.